



EVERY TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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A Little Ship Starts Out For Tahiti

THE GOOD COMPANIONS ON THE HIGH SEAS

ON August 10, 1796, just a hundred and fifty years ago, there was a bustle and stir on Thames-side as the missionary ship Duff sailed down the river outward bound for Tahiti. Crowds on the banks waved farewell to this gallant ship of 267 tons, with the purple flag of the newly-formed London Missionary Society at masthead, displaying a dove with an olive branch.

The captain of the Duff, James Wilson, had a remarkable history. He had sailed a majestic East Indiaman, and had been captured by the French and sold to Hyder Ali; and he had been chained between dead men in the Black Hole of Seringapatam. Wilson was one of the thirty men who had come out alive, but grey and bald at 35 by his terrible imprisonment.

But he volunteered to sail the Duff out to the South Seas carrying the first party of Christian missionaries to the Pacific. What a queer collection they were—a shoemaker, harness-maker, tailor, hatter, linen-draper, bricklayer, carpenter, cabinet-maker, gardener, blacksmith, cooper, butcher, and a weaver among them.

Down through the Thames reaches the ship sailed on the evening of August 10, with the whole company singing a hymn on the top deck and many of the company knowing that they might never see England again.

Off Gravesend they were stopped by a warship in order to be searched for contraband. "Whither bound, and what cargo?" came the voice from the warship, and the shouted answer was: "Otaheite (Tahiti), and missionaries and provisions!" The captain of His Majesty's ship had never heard such a reply, and, doubting its truth, he sent a midshipman aboard to make sure.

Out in the English Channel the Duff had to slip quickly down to Spithead for fear of French privateers then marauding along the English Channel. At Spithead she waited for three weeks while a large convoy assembled to make the desperate adventure into the Atlantic. But the Duff quickly showed her turn of speed and finally sailed on alone across the ocean to Cape Horn.

Captain Wilson's plan was to round the stormy cape and beat into the Pacific; and for a fort-

Continued at foot of next column

THE DOCTOR CALLING

Radio Drama of Sky and Sea

A DIAGNOSIS of his illness, together with a prescription and directions for treatment for a sick member of the crew of the American Merchant Navy vessel Verendrye were given recently by radio from a R.A.F. medical officer in a flying-boat circling above the ship.

The vessel was on her way from Japan to Australia, and her position was some 300 miles from Singapore when an urgent call was received by the R.A.F. Station at Seletar, Singapore, from the tanker, asking for medical aid to be sent to the ship with the utmost speed.

A Sunderland flying-boat took off from Seletar with the senior medical officer, Squadron-Leader G. M. Carstairs, on board. The position of the ship was located after three hours' flying, but the pilot decided that to land on such an extremely rough sea was too hazardous. The Medical Officer then volunteered to parachute down to the ship, but this again was considered too dangerous.

Mid-air Prescription

Then the pilot spoke to the tanker's skipper by radio and asked for details of the patient's symptoms. The skipper took the man's temperature, pulse, and rate of respiration. The flying-boat circled the Verendrye for over an hour while Squadron-Leader Carstairs listened to the skipper's account of the man's illness, and also obtained a list of the drugs available on board. Then over the radio came the M.O.'s prescription and directions for treatment. The man's complaint was diagnosed as kidney trouble. "He has a good chance of pulling through," said the Medical Officer, "but I wish I could have done more for him."

Continued from column 2

night the little ship battled with the winds and the sea while the passengers huddled below. Finally, the captain turned the Duff's nose across the southern Atlantic towards the Cape of Good Hope and came into the Pacific via Australia—a lonely voyage of ninety-seven days during which no other sail was sighted.

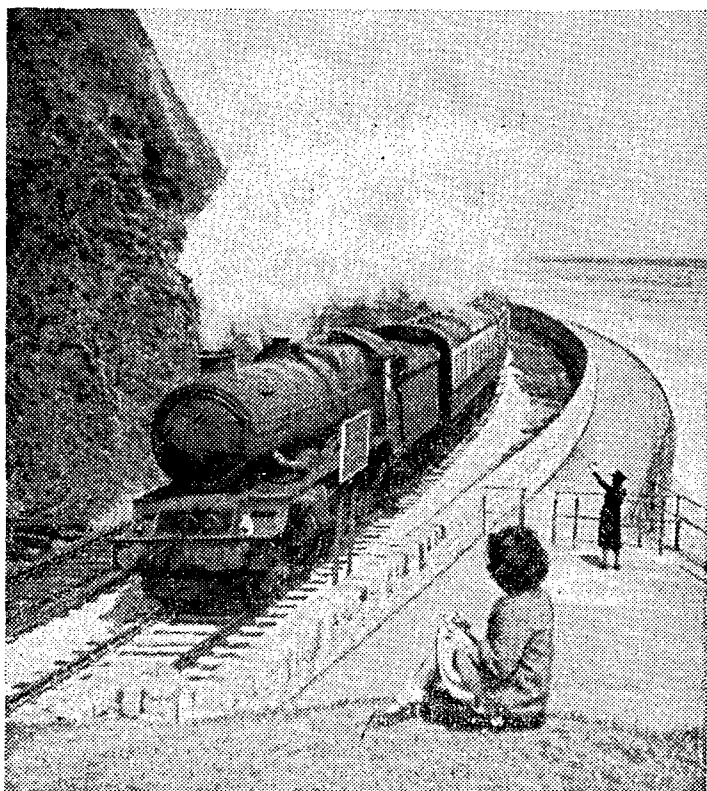
Not until March 4, 1797, were the tall peaks of Tahiti sighted above the horizon, and soon the Duff began to land her cargo of heroic men and women who had braved the dangerous seas only to encounter even greater dangers on Tahiti. The Duff went on to China and came back to the Thames in 1798, completing the first world voyage of a ship dedicated to carry the message of Christianity to "the ends of the earth."

FREEDOM OF THE DOWNS



Ramblers on the South Downs pause at a hill-top meeting of the ways to admire the view.

HOLIDAY EXPRESS



With a happy load of holidaymakers, the famous Cornish Riviera Express steams round the sea-wall at Teignmouth, Devon.

GARDEN CITIES IN THE DESERT

IN the forbidding land of the Central Australian Desert are some eligible residences that few ever see, but which one of the few travellers in that arid waste has recently described. They are the spinifex towns where the tiniest creatures of the desert find a home and a living.

The spinifex is a fine grass, which for all its delicate appearance has a point as sharp as a needle, and so penetrating that even a camel, the ship of the desert, will not set foot on it, but will walk round its colonies, which grow in separate

rings and spread like the fairy rings of mushrooms in circular form. Within these circles, families of mice (small marsupials), lizards, and insects hide, and dwell as if in a garden city in communal life. Each group of spinifex is self-contained and its dwellers are satisfied that no intruding foot will destroy their domestic peace.

These spinifex dwellers are not the only creatures of the desert. There are rabbits also: though how the rabbit fares in this waterless land where rain hardly ever falls, no one has yet been able to tell.

The Two Sides of a Globe

THE Gottorf Globe, now on view to the public at Lübeck, Germany, shows the surface of the earth with towns and rivers on its outside, and the sky with stars in silvergilt and a cut-crystal sun on its interior.

Considered the most remarkable piece of workmanship of its day, the globe was made of copper by a Limburg craftsman, Andreas Boesch, for the Duke of Holstein in 1652.

It was originally situated in the garden of Gottorf Palace in Schleswig, and in 1714 was given to the Tsar of Russia. German troops found it near Tsarskoye Selo in 1942 and brought it back to Schleswig-Holstein.

As many as ten people can sit inside the globe on a fixed bench and watch the sky revolve around them. The mechanism is worked by water-power from a spring.

"WE, THE PEOPLES . . ." In the Service of Youth

In Council Together to Ensure a World at Peace

LUXEMBOURG has been a word of world-wide significance during the past week, for not only has the Peace Conference met in the Palace of that name in Paris, but in the Chamber of Deputies at the capital of the Duchy of Luxembourg another international conference of great moment for future world prosperity and lasting peace has been meeting for the first time.

The MPs' Rights and Privileges

THE other day Parliament decided to call together the Committee of Privileges at the House of Commons in connection with a poster about bread rationing which had been declared by the Speaker to be *prima facie* a breach of the privilege of the House.

The Committee of Privileges, the object of which is to protect members of Parliament in respect of any outside action which appears to infringe their rights and privileges as members, is an old Parliamentary institution.

When, in the reign of Charles I, the goods of a member of the House of Commons were seized for non-payment of tonnage and poundage, it was decided to summon the Customs officer to the Bar of the House for breach of privilege; but the King refused to allow the officer to appear, and that raised acutely the question of the King's sovereignty.

By the findings of the Committee of Privileges the House can commit an offender to the custody of the Serjeant-at-Arms, or to prison; or by special motion it can discharge offenders from custody, ordering them to appear at the Bar of the House to be admonished by the Speaker.

In days gone by the punishment for breach of Privilege was sometimes very severe indeed. In these merciful times, admonition is more the order of the day.

Golden Grain From the Prairies

THE recent contract between the British and Canadian Governments whereby Canada is to send us, at an agreed price, 600 million bushels of wheat during the next four years means that we are not likely again to face the dangerous shortage of grain which has led to bread rationing. It marks, too, the wonderful spirit of co-operation between the Canadians and ourselves.

The price at which it has been agreed the first two years' supply of 320 million bushels is to be sold to us is 30 per cent below the present price of United States wheat, and lower still than the current price of Argentine wheat in the world's open market. Lower prices still have been agreed on as a minimum for the second two years' wheat. Canada has been willing to agree to these comparatively low prices because if in the next four years the world or open market price of wheat should fall heavily—as it may do—her farmers will still be assured of a steady price and market for their wheat.

In announcing this splendid agreement Mr Strachey spoke of "Our Canadian friends—and what firm friends they have been to us."

To the less-heralded conference in the City of Luxembourg came delegates from both the Allied and the ex-enemy countries, all of them eager to set up an international federation of United Nations Associations—those non-party peace-loving organisations which are springing up all over the world in order to foster and fortify the support by men, women, and children in their several countries of the principles of the United Nations Charter.

From 21 countries where a Una already is at work, and from Norway, Yugoslavia, and Iraq, where Una is in course of being established, and from Argentina, Cuba, Chile, and Peru have come representative men and women. Russia, too, was asked to send an observer, while such international bodies as Unesco and Unrra were also represented.

From Italy and Austria

Leading the seven United Kingdom members was Sir Geoffrey Mander to tell how in these islands Una has existed for over a year and numbers Mr Attlee and Mr Churchill among its presidents. Another vigorous Una arrived from Italy, where it had come into being during the war, when Rome was about to fall; this Italian Association was, in fact, a child of the underground Resistance movement. In Austria, too, there is a very strong Una.

But the most welcome delegation was that from the U.S., where Una is spreading far and wide. The absence of Americans from the League of Nations and their lack of enthusiasm for its doings was a most serious hindrance to world unity between the two wars. This isolationism is not likely to occur again.

But why, may we ask, is this new Federation so important? It is important because without the full interest and backing of the ordinary people in any country that country's official representatives in the United Nations Assembly lack authority. It is not enough that the delegates to Uno should be comrades at their meetings, realising each other's difficulties; the peoples they represent must also have good will one towards another and give proof that they have it.

Una's Chief Aims

Each National Association aims at not only mobilising its own members to the sincere support of the Charter but also to the full appreciation of the aims and ideals of other nationals. It was to discuss the formation of a Federation of the existing and future national Associations that the delegates have been meeting these last few days in the Parliament house of the City of Luxembourg. Unity is strength, and when the urge for unity is a mainspring of the thoughts and actions of every individual in every land the evil of war will have been banished for good and all.

At the twenty-first annual meeting of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, held recently at Reading, Lord Aberdare made a plea for a partnership with local education authorities in the service of youth.

The NABC represents some 2000 clubs with 200,000 members. Voluntary youth organisations have obtained a vast amount of knowledge about teen-age boys and girls, and, speaking for the Association, Lord Aberdare said it was most anxious to share this information with local authorities. "By such a partnership," he declared, "we are convinced each locality and the nation as a whole can best be served."

So that no district in England where there is the need will be without its local organisation of boys' clubs the Association has appointed seven regional officers, one of whose tasks will be to extend the system of county organisations.

The regional officers will also help the local organisations to keep in touch with one another and will give them assistance when necessary, particularly with the vital work of recruiting and training the constantly-needed voluntary leaders.

Boys' Clubs Overseas

The excellent idea of the Boys' Club is spreading beyond our shores. The NABC was asked to advise on the problem of Youth Service in the British Zone of Germany, and its suggestions are being carried out. Iraq has also asked for an adviser to be sent; trainees from Africa regularly seek the Association's help; while the first Boys' Club is being started in Newfoundland by a man trained by the NABC.

Lord Aberdare warmly advocated this extension of the services which the Boys' Clubs movement can so efficiently provide.

At its coming-of-age it seems as though the National Association of Boys' Clubs is becoming an International Association.

Schoolboy Cricketers At Lord's

THE encouragement of promising boy cricketers received a further impetus the other day when the North London v South London Schools cricket match was placed right in the middle of the season's programme at Lord's, instead of being played, as usual, at Lord's in September when the county season is over.

This may be regarded as the measure of the importance which the talent spotters of the MCC attach to the finding of exceptionally promising schoolboy cricketers, especially bowlers, and of letting the public see them in action while big cricket is in full swing. The talent of Denis Compton, of Middlesex and England, was discovered in one of these matches.

Your Summer Holiday

WILL you please tell your news-agent, well in advance, when you are going away from your home for your summer holiday so that he can reserve your copies of Children's Newspaper until your return.

WORLD NEWS REEL

ECONOMIC UNION. Belgium, Holland, and Luxembourg are working out plans whereby they may join together in an economic union. If the plans are successful each country will retain its independence as a State but they will work as one for purposes of trade.

Representatives of the five States of the Arab League—Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon—have been invited to attend a roundtable conference in London together with representatives of the different parties in Palestine.

All New Zealand parents are now entitled to receive a benefit of ten shillings a week for each child of school age in the family.

UNITED NATIONS MAGAZINE. Uno is now publishing a weekly news magazine about its activities. It costs 9d and there are separate French and English editions.

Travel Association information bureaux are to be set up in 20 European capitals with the aim of creating interest in Britain.

Displaced women to the number of 1000 from Baltic countries are to come to Britain to work in hospitals.

JUNIOR UNO. At the recent Council meeting of the World Federation of Democratic Youth

in Paris, 64 nations were represented. The conference studied ways of popularising the activities of the United Nations.

EIRE AND UNO. The Dail (Irish Parliament) recently approved unanimously Mr de Valera's proposal to apply for membership of the United Nations.

A telephone link between Britain and Russia, at present limited to Moscow, has been established.

During road excavations in Johannesburg a telephone line became short-circuited on to a line carrying radio programmes, and when a woman telephoned an order to her grocer the call was broadcast to the whole of Transvaal Province.

AUSTRALIA CALLING. Australia has offered to pay the fares and provide passages for the parents of children evacuated to Australia who now wish to return there. Parents' passages will be at nominal rates, and fathers who were in the Forces will travel free.

A United Nations Health Conference has been held in New York, out of which will emerge a new world health unit to incorporate all existing international health organisations.

HOME NEWS REEL

NEW "ARMY" CHIEF. Commissioner William Dalziel, who was Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army in South Australia, is to command the Salvation Army in Britain. He succeeds General Orsborn, who is now International SA leader.

In 1945 the fatal accident rate in the coal mines of Britain was the lowest on record in this country.

The Plastic Surgery Centre at Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead, given at a cost of £100,000 by the British War Relief Society of America, was recently opened by the Queen. At the Centre disabled Servicemen are fitted for social life.

A BRITISH SHARK. A five-foot tope, a species of shark, was caught off West Wittering, Sussex, recently. The tope is a bottom-haunting shark and usually keeps a long way out from the shore.

On the Southern Railway electric trains are saving Britain 400,000 tons of coal a year.

The first man to be shot out of a jet-plane at 300 m.p.h., Mr Bernard Lynch trained for his ordeal on a 60-foot high

pylon at Denham. He was shot up this pylon more than 200 times by a rocket placed under the seat.

DANGEROUS PLAY. Flares with which three London boys were playing on waste ground near the White City estate exploded and injured them.

A torpedo, caught in the nets of the Lowestoft trawler Copious, exploded and lifted the vessel six feet into the air. In spite of this the skipper brought the Copious safely back to port.

The British Museum has acquired for £120,000 the large musical library of Mr Paul Hirsch. It is said to be one of the most complete private collections.

FIRST. The first bombed school to be rebuilt, St Audrey's Modern School, Hatfield, Herts, was opened not long ago by the Minister of Education.

An unofficial British height record for jet-planes has been established by Squadron-Leader Philip Stanbury, test pilot of the Gloster Aircraft Co, who reached a height of 46,500 feet in a Meteor. The world record height for planes, 56,017 feet, was made by Italy in 1938.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

BRAVERY IN BORNEO. The Silver Cross has been awarded to Scout Chin Chi Kong, of British North Borneo, for gallantry during the Japanese occupation of his country. Chin Chi Kong was responsible for the rescue from a prison-camp of several Australian soldiers, after which he was arrested, tortured, and flung into gaol.

Garden seeds to the value of £150 sent by Canadian Scouts have been used with great success in British gardens, in the grounds of Scout Headquarters, and on allotments worked by Scout Groups.

When all newsagents' shops closed during Wigan's Holiday Week, Girl Guides and Wolf

Cubs in one part of the town earned money for their respective groups by delivering newspapers.

WORLD JAMBOREE. The Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, will lead the Empire contingent of Scouts to the Sixth World Jamboree, which is to be held in France next year. The contingent is expected to number 8000 boys between the ages of 14½ and 17½.

The Boys Brigade Diploma for Gallant Conduct has been awarded to Corporal John Earl, 4th Mid-Surrey (Sutton) Company, for rescuing a child from the sea at Brighton; and to Private E. W. F. Town, 1st Boston Company, who received burns when going to the rescue of another boy whose clothes had caught fire.

The Mouse in the Jam Jar

HERE is the tale of a store-cupboard mystery.

Situated on an upper floor of a London house, the cupboard contained the remainder of the home-made jam carefully bottled last year. Seeking a 2-lb jar of damson jam, the mistress of the house was startled to find the vessel emptied of jam, but not entirely of its former contents. Her visit had been preceded by many visits paid by mice. The cellulose cover of the jar had been neatly pierced and an opening made, large enough to admit a mouse. Every particle of the jam had been eaten, but at the bottom of the jar lay a pile of fruit-stones. In a corner near the jar lay a few more of the stones, some of them gnawed by the

chisel-like teeth of the robbers, which had collected them from the jar for future use.

What puzzled the disappointed owner was, not how the mice got in, for that point was clear, but how, once in and down at the bottom of the jar, they had got out. Mice can leap surprisingly high, but to leap out of the little hole in the cellulose cover must have been a feat rivaling that of the "demon king" as he bounds through the trapdoors of a Christmas pantomime.

We suspect that a little "mousy" co-operation may be the explanation. Did the mice take it in turns for one to remain on the lid with its tail dangling through the hole for another to climb to safety?

Bread Without Tears

NEW wheats just announced from the Russian State Experimental Farm in the North Caucasus afford a new hope for a hungry world. They are wheats which when sown continue to crop three or four times a year.

These so-called perennial wheats arise not from crossing one cultivated wheat with another, but with a wild plant instead. The plant growing wild has a greater toughness and a better power of survival.

The Russian experts selected couch grass for their experiment, and found five varieties that can be effectively crossed with wheat and rye so as to go on wheating nearly all the year. Other wild plants are being tried, even the Lyme grass of the seashore.

If these experiments prove successful on a large scale Food Ministers will breathe again.

COLOURFUL TRAINS

A YEAR'S experiments have resulted in the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway deciding on a standard colour scheme for its locomotives. Express passenger engines of the Pacific, Royal Scot, Patriot, and Jubilee classes are to be painted maroon and straw. The others are to be painted black.

Carriages are to be maroon and straw, and they are also to be the basic colours of the LMS passenger stations.

A BOOK AS BIG AS A MATCH-END

PROBABLY the smallest book in the world has been made by Sergeant Alfred H. Howman, RASC, of Dartford, Kent. It is only 3/32nds of an inch square, about the size of a match-end.

The book is fully bound in Persian calf of the thinness of tissue paper, and it was sewn with a specially made needle and a strand of the finest silk. On each page in tiny type is printed one letter of the alphabet.

Sergeant Howman is presenting his midget book to the British Museum.

DOWN TO EARTH

THE War Department has sold to a Liverpool business man 600 glider packing-cases with the gliders inside them. The purchase was made in order to use the timber of the packing-cases, each 25 feet long and eight feet high, for the construction of 250 chalets with accommodation for 750 holidaymakers at a camp near Morecambe.

Mr L. T. Salts of Liverpool, who bought the cases, says the wood is splendid for the purpose. The gliders, too, will have their place in the new camp.

Their Perspex windows will make weatherproof shields for outdoor electric lights; the paratroopers' seats will be installed in a camp cinema for 350 children; while the wings and fuselages will provide material for linings for doors and walls of the chalets.

SCOUTS WILL FIND A WAY

A SCOTTISH contributor to the CN, who is also a Scout-master, has sent us this little story:

One afternoon I was giving my six patrols a test in measuring (without tape measure) the distance between two trees, when I noticed with some astonishment that one little fellow appeared to be undergoing a severe manhandling at the hands of the other members of his patrol who were clustered round him, dragging him up and down and flattening him out on the ground at intervals. I rushed up to save him from an early death to be met with the Patrol Leader's: "It's all right, sir. Jimmy happens to know that he's exactly 4 ft 2 ins, and we're measuring the distance with him."

LOCUSTS AS FOOD

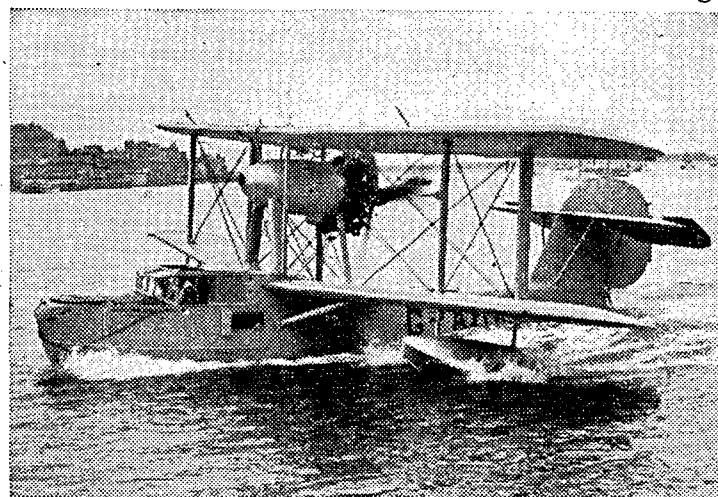
THE widespread shortage of feeding-stuffs for animals may encourage owners of domestic stock to try experiments, and they will find that animals have as strange and unexpected tastes as human beings.

There have been cows that would eat soap with great relish, their mouths a mass of foam and lather. There was a cat, too, which was often caught helping herself to cucumbers growing in her master's greenhouse. There have been dogs with a passion for grapes, pears, and strawberries.

But horses are perhaps the most exceptional in their varied diet. Along the Persian Gulf, for instance, horses are fed on sun-dried and salted whitebait and other small fish; and they show a zest no less pronounced for locusts treated in the same manner, a food, by the way, which forms a regular part of native diet in hot lands wherever these insects swarm.

THE HUMANE WAY

FOR reasons of health alone it is essential that rats and mice should be destroyed. Some people unfortunately are ignorant of the right methods of dealing with these pests. Ufaw (the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, 234 Regent's Park Road, London, N3) have recently published an instructive leaflet which points out the most effective and, at the same time, most humane ways of killing rats and mice.



The Whale-Spotting Plane

One of the three Walrus amphibian planes which next month are accompanying a whaling ship to the Antarctic to spot whales from the air. Pilots and crews have been visiting the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, to study the models of different species of whales.

THE RABBIT AND THE OPALS

AN aborigine recently made a lucky discovery in Central Australia. He picked up a piece of precious opal, a gem that a rabbit had scratched up out of the ground. This led him to find a rich opal field in the neighbourhood. One of the first pieces of opal found lying about was worth £600.

An opal consists almost entirely of flint containing from five to 20 per cent water. It owes its flashing beauty not to colours of its own, but to innumerable minute fissures which break up the light in a similar manner to the scales on a butterfly's wing.

FAMOUS METEORS

THE famous Perseid Meteor shower which is due about August 10 to 12 is not likely to be much in evidence this year owing to the presence of the Full Moon, which will render all but the brightest imperceptible.

There is, however, the possibility of perceiving a few of the brightest radiate from the northeast late in the evening during the few days preceding the date of Full Moon. These are fore-runners of the main stream, but the sky needs to be fairly dark.

G. F. M.

BENEVOLENT TOUR

MR JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, grandson of the famous American millionaire, is to tour Britain, France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria, together with Mr William Myers, to study post-war conditions with a view to disbursing the £2,500,000 which is given away every year under the Rockefeller Foundation in aid of international health, medical, natural, and social science, and the humanities.

A Surrey Centre of the Arts

A PLAN has been submitted to the Borough Council of Guildford, Surrey, for developing the central area of that city into a centre of the arts—to give it "a spiritual quality."

Guildford has good claims to become such a centre, for it is one of the oldest towns in England. Alfred the Great mentioned it in his will, but it was not until the twelfth century that Guildford came into real prominence, when King Henry II built a Royal palace there—now no more than a ruin. Later monarchs—John, Henry III, and Queen Elizabeth—made Guildford Castle one of their Royal homes.

Guildford is, indeed, full of history, and has many historical monuments, notably its sixteenth century grammar school, its Jacobean Abbot's Hospital, its seventeenth-century Guildhall, and some famous inns, including the Red Lion, a favourite haunt of Samuel Pepys.

The plan aims at extensive developments outside the city, too.

BILLY FAIR PLAY

COAL dust deposited a hundred years ago from the Burn Pit, West Brunton, near Newcastle, is being shipped to the Continent from Tyneside ports to help to win back Britain's export trade.

In the course of time the deposit had become a rabbit warren, overgrown with grass, but already 40,000 tons of the coal dust have gone overseas.

The men of a century ago called the coal dust "Billy Fair Play," the miners depending on the owners to make a fair allowance for the amount dumped.

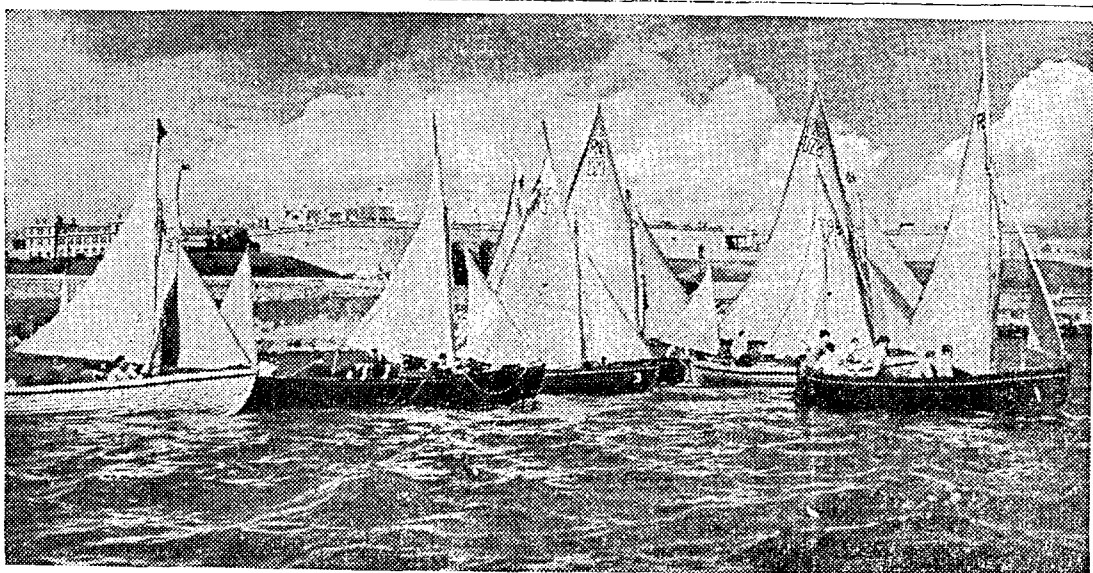
Refrigerating Orchards

IT now appears that our fruit harvest this year, if not so good as at one time was hoped, will not be so poor as at a later date was feared.

The whole British fruit crop can vary from year to year by as much as 300 per cent, as against 30 per cent in America and 17 per cent in Australia. The reason is not only that our weather is patchy, but that

rain and sun and fruit are themselves distributed in patches.

Near Rickmansworth, in Hertfordshire, it was lately reported that there is a smallish sunken area where there are ground frosts even in July and August; and a scientific horticulturist has pointed out that many English orchards grow in hollows, which, selected for shelter, act as basins for low temperatures.



The Start of the Race

Plymouth's famous regatta has been held for the first time since the war. Such races as that shown in our picture provide thrilling spectacles for many holidaymakers round our coasts.

An Old Lady of the Sea

THAT grand old liner, the Aquitania, which, built in 1914, has survived two wars, recently left Southampton for Halifax, Nova Scotia, after a fortnight in dry dock, where some of her pre-war gay appearance was restored.

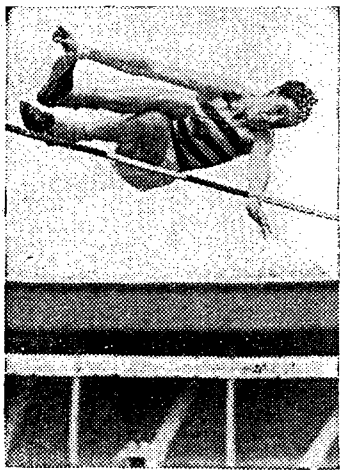
When she first left her cradle on the Clyde, 32 years ago, the Aquitania was one of the biggest ships afloat and before she could be launched the river had to be dredged to provide the necessary depth, and part of the opposite bank cut away. The world in those days marvelled at her colossal dimensions. Her rudder alone weighs 80 tons, and one of her anchors is 12 tons, through one of her funnels a motor-bus could be driven, and her gross tonnage is 45,647. Yet 25 years later the Queen Elizabeth with a gross tonnage of 85,000 was built, also on the Clyde!

The Aquitania was originally built to burn coal but was converted to an oil-burner in 1920. Prior to that it was not uncommon for her stokers to collapse with heat apoplexy.

Her braving of all the ocean's peacetime and wartime perils for 32 years recalls those lines of Longfellow's:

*Build me straight, O worthy Master!
Staunch and strong, a goodly vessel,
That shall laugh at all disaster,
And with wave and whirlwind wrestle!*

Young Champion



Alan Paterson, the 18-year-old jumping champion from Scotland who has been breaking records this season.

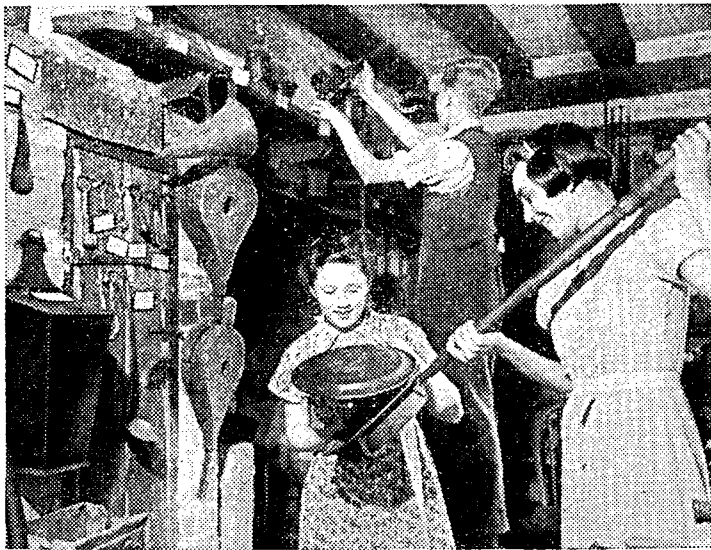
Free Milk For All Schoolchildren

MILK is to be provided free for all our schoolboys and girls under 18 next term, for the Independent schools — private schools and others that receive no Government grant—are to be brought into the scheme from August 6.

The daily ration has had to be reduced to one third of a pint as our milk supply at present does not justify any more being given, but it is hoped before long to increase the quantity. Delicate children at Special Schools will continue to receive two-thirds of a pint per child per day.

Free school milk may also be provided during the holidays or

HISTORY LIVES AT ASHWELL



The Children's Museum in the "Town House" at Ashwell

ASHWELL Museum is opening again, after a rest during the war years. Its newest exhibit, a model spinning-wheel from Holland, brought back by the curator from his time of service in the Army, is just one more of Ashwell's many links with world history.

The little timbered house in the shadow of the great church of Ashwell in Hertfordshire might almost be called The Children's Museum. Two boys started it nearly twenty years ago, when their schoolmaster encouraged them to collect old coins and tools and similar objects of interest. Their collection soon became too interesting to be housed in the shed where it was first kept, and with the encouragement of many local people they bought for £25 a "condemned" cottage.

On investigation, the ramshackle old place proved to have fine beams under its plaster. Sir William Gentle stepped in, like a godfather, to the help of his native village, and paid for the professional restoration to its present beauty of the "Town House."

"Town House" was the name found on the building when it was repaired. When it was built in about 1500 it was the "Tythe Office" of the Abbot of Westminster, where farmers and merchants brought samples of their tithes of barley and of sheep's wool. The tithe barn, where the tithes were stored, was burned down early this century, but barley grains and tufts of wool have been found in the beams of the "Town House" as evidence of its early history.

Still under the care of its

founders, J. M. Bray and Albert Sheldrick, the museum flourished until the war came, when it had to be closed. But, perhaps because it was started by children, perhaps because it belongs so very much to the village, the present generation of young people have kept a careful eye upon it. Last year a few of them, including the schoolmaster's son and daughter, spring-cleaned it, and now Mr Sheldrick, home again from the Army, has completed that process in his spare time. Any visitor to Ashwell can borrow the keys of this treasure-house, and perchance enlist a young villager as his guide, for it is still, in some ways, "the children's museum."

Tradesmen's Tokens

Here they are linked so easily with the past of their own village, and through it with the wider world. The coins in one case range from Julius Caesar to the present day, and all were picked up in the fields round about. Even more attractive are the various tradesmen's tokens which served as money in the 17th century, for these originated in Ashwell and Baldock, or Bowdick, and other nearby villages. There is a token bearing the name of John Sell of Ashwell, Grocer; he it is who has a brass plate in the church describing him as "To God a Saint, to the poor a friend."

Then there are "machines" for splitting straws, and samples of straw plait once sold in Hitchin market to the hat-makers of Luton; there are harvest horns which woke the labourers at 4 a.m.; there are printed copies of sermons which a Rector of Ashwell, Herbert Palmer, preached before the Commons and Lords in 1643 and 1644; and, again connecting Ashwell with English history, there is a boy's jubilee suit made to be worn at the jubilee of Queen Victoria.

Everything in this tiny house has a real connection with the village. It is the kind of museum which is, fortunately, becoming more common now, but it is still not common enough.

The Editor's Table

THE BRITISH SOLDIER

LET us never forget the debt we owe to the British soldier," said Field-Marshal Montgomery when the City of London made him a Freeman. "I shall take away into the evening of life many impressions," he added, "but the one which I shall treasure above all others is the picture of the British soldier—staunch, and tenacious in defeat, kind and gentle in victory—the man to whom the nation owes its heartfelt thanks."

Thus did the Field-Marshal, in returning thanks for the City's honour, most happily pass it on to the men whom he had led from Alamein to the Baltic—those who "stood firm before tyranny and oppression . . . the simple, homely figure of the British soldier, calm and resolute, dominating all around him by his quiet courage and cheerfulness." Thus did a great man render homage to those who made him great. Thus did he pay tribute, as G. K. Chesterton did, to those:

*Whose souls were humbled
to the hills and narrowed to the
skies,
The hundred little lands within
one little land that lie,
Where Severn seeks the sunset
isles or Sussex scales the sky.*

THE heartfelt thanks of every one of us are due to the British soldier for his endurance in desert and on beach, and in defeat which to others seemed overwhelming, but which he knew only gave him another chance of fighting again. We thank him for holding on while our own strength slowly mounted in weight and numbers. We thank him for believing all the time in the cause for which he was fighting. We thank him for dismissing all faint-heartedness as unworthy of Britons.

THE world now knows the friendliness of the Briton in uniform. He has been seen all over the world giving candy to children, sharing his rations with refugees, guiding the aged and poor to shelter. His cheerful grin survived the heat of Africa and the snows of Norway; and when conditions became worse than difficult he turned his grumbles into song.

OUR heartfelt thanks are offered to the warriors, now returning to civilian life. Millions of them have already doffed their uniforms to take their place in the nation's army of workers, and have brought a new cheerfulness with them—which will go a long way now that Britain is striving to regain her old renown in the world's market places.

AND so our heartfelt thanks go out to the British soldier for all he was, and all he is, and all he hopes to be.

What to Do?

DR J. MACALISTER BREW, Education Secretary of the National Association of Girls' Clubs and Mixed Clubs, has spoken of the 20th century's gift to the common man: an increase of 12 hours a week of leisure time. The Oxford Dictionary defines leisure as "the function or opportunity to do something"; and the question was, "What would people do?"

Leisure time, he went on, should aim at satisfying body, mind, and spirit, and that was why youth clubs had games, dancing, singing, acting, and debates. An introduction to the Arts often led to an appreciation of the spiritual side of life.

Dr Brew speaks with authority and he knows that this question of leisure is one of the great problems of this restless age. The passing years will tend to bring even more leisure time, but if it is frittered away or otherwise wrongly used it will prove a bane to mankind, not a blessing.

Please Shut the Gate

NOW that we are trying to make our gardens look neat and brighter with a few flowers, writes a C N reader, I wonder when people (both old and young) will learn to shut the gate on coming in or going out. In the country especially, there are dogs and sheep and cows passing, and if they once get in, they can very soon undo a whole week's hard work. We don't all wish to have the lines placarded on the gate, as I've seen more than once:

*Be ye man or be ye woman,
Be ye gaun or be ye coming,
Be ye soon or be ye late,
Be ye sure to shut this gate.*

JUST AN IDEA

In Shakespeare's words, Lowliness is young Ambition's ladder. Where to the climber upward turns his face.

Under the E



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If a brass band
plays with
polish

WATCH parts will be more plentiful later on. We must wait for the spring.

A MAN pulled the communication cord and stopped a train to admire the view. Hope it did so.

THE staff of a hotel complained that their food was put on the menu. Must have run short of plates.

A CHIEF CONSTABLE in Norfolk has done much to cure long queues. They were sick of waiting.

THINGS SAID

AT present we are consuming more coal than ever in our history . . . the estimated inland consumption will amount this year to the record figure of 188 million tons. *Mr Shinwell*

THE first Atlantic flight by a jet-propelled plane will probably be made in about five years' time by the tailless Brabazon IV. *Sir Ben Lockspeiser*

I INTEND to maintain the prohibition against the sale of bird of paradise feathers. *Sir Stafford Cripps*

I AM certain that the Navy, the Army, and the R A F are far greater ambassadors than any politician. *Lord Cornwallis*

A Washington Passport

ONE of the early balloonists mentioned in last week's C N was Jean Blanchard who, with Dr Jefferies, made the first crossing of the English Channel in a balloon.

A correspondent sends us an interesting note concerning Blanchard's exploits with balloons in America about the year 1793. The Frenchman's ascent from Philadelphia was probably the first flight ever made in the United States, and in his pocket he carried a special passport which read :

The bearer hereof, Mr Blanchard, proposing to ascend from . . . Philadelphia . . . this day . . . and to descend in such places as circumstances may render most convenient . . . all citizens of the United States (should) oppose no hindrance or molestation to the said Mr Blanchard.

Given under my hand and seal . . . George Washington

Thus the first President of the United States showed his great interest in the new mode of locomotion. Flight and the Presidency may be said to have marched side by side in America's story.

Editor's Table

THE Standing Committee has passed a Bill with little change. Now the Committee can sit down.

A LADY says she eats next to nothing. Evidently dines alone.

SOME people go abroad for the winter. They would get it here just the same if they didn't.

QUICK Course for Teachers, says a newsheading. So they won't get fed up.



A FLAT-DWELLER says he likes to eat and sleep on the same floor. We prefer a table and bed.

CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer Aims at Income Tax Cuts. Sure to make a hit.

Weather Round Our Shores

MORE variety is creeping into our weather reports.

The terse comments on conditions at holiday resorts used to vary, in fine weather, between warm, very warm, fair, or, rarely, hot. But we were intrigued to read in our evening paper recently something more on these lines: Hastings, excellent; Worthing, brilliant; Torquay, beautiful.

It is a pleasing note. As our weather clerks grow more enthusiastic we can expect to see such comments as: Bexhill, superb; Teignmouth, glorious; Blackpool, heavenly.

Alternatively, as English weather gets back to normal, we may see a corresponding lack of enthusiasm, with: Dover, miserable; Weymouth, dreadful; Llandudno, appalling.

THE SHOES OF GENIUS

THE world has been paying tribute to George Bernard Shaw on attaining, while still physically fit and active of mind and spirit, the great age of 90.

Doubtless Mr Shaw would attribute his long-continued robustness to the fact that he never smokes, that he has never drunk alcoholic liquor, and that he is a lifelong vegetarian. A lover of the open-air, he says that his recreation is anything but sport.

As a young man he wrote criticisms of books, music, plays, and pictures—his visits to art galleries involving miles of walking. A famous Alpine climber, noticing the immensely thick soles of the boots worn by Mr Shaw, once asked him if he was a mountaineer. "No," was the answer, "these boots are for the hard floors of the London picture galleries!"

Mellow August

THERE is no month in the whole year, in which Nature wears a more beautiful appearance than in the month of August. Spring has many beauties, and May is a fresh and blooming month, but the charms of this time of year are enhanced by their contrast with the winter season. August has no such advantage. It comes when we remember nothing but clear skies, green fields, and sweet-smelling flowers—when the recollection of snow, and ice, and bleak winds has faded from our minds as completely as they have disappeared from the earth, and yet what a pleasant time it is! Orchards and cornfields ring with the hum of labour; trees bend beneath the thick clusters of rich fruit which bow their branches to the ground; and the corn, piled in graceful sheaves, or waving in every light breath that sweeps above it, as if it wooed the sickle, tinges the landscape with a golden hue. A mellow softness appears to hang over the whole earth.

Charles Dickens

THE DOG OF DOGS



ALL over our island the sheepdogs are being put through their paces, for the big international sheepdog championships are being held this year for the first time since the war began.

Once again spectators will be thrilled by a performance better than anything to be seen at a circus because these dogs are demonstrating what is their everyday useful work. The winning dogs of the English, Welsh, and Scottish trials will compete at Edinburgh on September 19, 20, and 21.

At the sheepdog trials the master generally stands in one place while his dog, working at a hand-signal, whistle, or cry, marshals a flock of sheep and drives them in the required direction, round obstacles, through lanes of hurdles and into a pen, and performs many other wonderfully skilful feats. This is the sort of dog who, at ordinary times, if his flock becomes hopelessly mixed up with other flocks on the road, will plunge into the tangled skein of

woolly life, sort out his own sheep and drive them away.

The two chief breeds of sheepdog in Britain today are the Scotch Collie, whose name is derived from the word colley, which means a Highland sheep, and the smaller Welsh Collie.

A 12-year-old collie of Selkirk, Jim, is still a champion though stone blind. Acting only on sound and scent, Jim can jump three-foot walls, round up sheep, cattle, and even geese with ease, and separate individual sheep from the flock.

The Welsh collie is among the most intelligent of all shepherd's dogs, and it was in Wales that sheepdog trials began in 1876. The Welsh dogs have been employed by railway companies to keep sheep off the line in Wales, and their breed has also produced dog film stars.

Hyderabad's New Parliament

HYDERABAD, the second largest and most populous of Indian States—provinces ruled by their own princes—is to have a new Legislative Assembly with 76 of the 134 members elected.

The ruler of Hyderabad is called the Nizam who, as recently described in the C N, is one of the richest men in the world. Previously, he was the absolute ruler of his State, assisted by an Executive Council and a Legislative Council of 20 members, who were under his orders. There was no semblance of Democracy as we understand it.

Although the Nizam is a Moslem, the majority of his people are Hindus. This is because the Nizam is really the

descendant of provincial governors appointed by the Great Moghul or Emperor to rule this part of the country in the days when India was a Moslem Empire. "Nizam-ul-mulk" means "Administrator of the land." The ancestor of the present Nizam was Chin Killij Khan, who was appointed by the Mohammedan Emperor in 1713 and who later threw off his allegiance to the Emperor and became an independent prince. Since his day the Nizams of Hyderabad have been in treaty relations with Great Britain.

The present ruler, General HEH Sir Mir Usman Ali Khan, has crowned many a previous act of wisdom by establishing this Legislative Assembly.



THIS ENGLAND Brotherswater, in the Lake District, part of the estate of the late Lord Lonsdale, which has been accepted in payment of death duties.

Where the Incas Once Ruled

ONCE again in her turbulent history the Republic of Bolivia has become a storm centre of revolution.

This country has been the scene of many wars and internal disturbances ever since, in the sixteenth century it ceased to be ruled by the Incas, a dynasty of South American Indians who, for 300 years, held that and other territories up and down the great range known as the Andes.

The Spaniards conquered the land from the Incas, and held it until 1824, when it was liberated by the Venezuelan patriot Simon Bolivar, and became an independent Republic, named after her liberator. It was Simon's hope that there might be a United States of South America, but, alas, that hope has never been realised.

Bolivia is very rich in minerals. She produces about one-sixth of the world's tin. Her main trouble, which has been the cause of many wars, is that she has no outlet to the sea. Bolivia's latest disturbance, however, is the result of internal dissension.

Everyone must hope that a country so rich in natural wealth, and a member of the United Nations, will soon enter upon an era of peace, without which prosperity is impossible.

Saucy Arethusa



The figurehead of the last British warship to fight under sail is kept smartly painted. The Saucy Arethusa became a training ship in 1874.

Passport Changes Are Coming

AT a very early date our Foreign Secretary, Mr Bevin, hopes to be able to announce great changes in the granting of passports and visas for travel to a large number of countries.

Mr Bevin is aiming at getting rid of all the hindrances which stop people from moving about from country to country. Visas (endorsements that passports have been officially examined by agents of the receiving country) are an abomination, Mr Bevin said the other day.

Our Foreign Secretary said he expected as many as 20 million of our people would get holidays with pay during the next five years, and he hoped that many of these holidaymakers would visit the Continent, and perhaps America, too.

The present system of passports and visas is very cumbersome. The British passport itself is an elaborate document—a book, in fact—and to obtain one means much delay and inconvenience. Even a permit to visit Northern Ireland cannot be obtained under four weeks.

A PAINTER AT THE COURTS OF KINGS

GODFREY KNELLER, the portrait painter, who was born at Lübeck in Germany on August 8 just 300 years ago, was not among the giants of the Stuart age. Nevertheless, despite a tendency to flatter the sitters, his works form an invaluable contribution to the portrait gallery of his times.

Few artists have painted so many persons of royal blood as Sir Godfrey Kneller. In all no fewer than ten reigning sovereigns sat to him for their portraits, and there were few persons of rank or wealth in England who were not among his clients.



was praised by such men as Dryden, Pope, Addison, Steele, and Prior, who all thought highly of his work. Pope, too, has left us an amusing account of his very individual method of dispensing justice as a magistrate:

*I think Sir Godfrey should decide the suit,
Who sent the thief who stole the cash away,
And punished him that put it in his way.*

Kneller lived through the reigns of five British sovereigns, and he was employed by all of them. It was a painting of Charles the Second which first made his reputation. Charles was so pleased with the portrait that he insisted on Kneller painting his queen, and sent him to Paris to paint Louis XIV.

James the Second continued to extend the royal favour to the artist, and when William of Orange landed James was actually sitting to Kneller for a portrait commissioned by Pepys.

William III knighted Kneller in 1691 and presented him with a gold chain and medal worth 300 guineas. As court artist he

painted the king, and also Peter the Great of Russia. These two portraits, along with several others by him, are still at Hampton Court. Both Queen Anne and George I, who created him a baronet in 1715, continued to show him exceptional favour.

Kneller could not have accomplished unaided the enormous amount of work credited to him, though he was a quick worker, and it is on record that when Charles II, to save trouble, once sat to Lely and Kneller at the same time, Kneller's portrait was ready when Lely's was only half ready. But like many other famous painters, Sir Godfrey kept a great number of assistants busy painting in the less important parts of the portraits, such as the background and the draperies. At the height of his career Kneller usually painted only the face and the hands, but charged 60 guineas a portrait.

Perhaps his best-known work is his famous series of the 48 members of the Kit-Kat Club, the principal literary and political characters of his day.

Although Sir Godfrey Kneller lost heavily in the South Sea Bubble, he died a rich man. He was buried in his garden at Twickenham, not far from Pope's house there. He had refused Westminster Abbey, saying, "I will not be buried in Westminster Abbey; they do bury fools there."

Boom in British Shipyards

BRITAIN is easily leading the way in shipbuilding at the present time. More than a half of the total tonnage of ships now being built in the world is concentrated in British shipyards.

For centuries Britain has been famous for shipbuilding. Alfred the Great built bigger and better ships than the all-conquering Viking vessels with which to beat the Danes, and thus founded a fleet that long served this country both in carrying its goods and defending it.

It is true that we have had many challengers in shipbuilding, but our designers and shipwrights have rarely failed to hold their own.

After the war of 1914-18, however, there was a disastrous slump in British shipyards, which meant many thousands of unemployed among their workers. We have learned by that bitter experience, and it is not likely to happen again. Yet we are not forcing new British-built ships on other nations. Our reputation for building good seacraft more cheaply than anyone else has gone round the world, and the demand for British-built ships has arisen as the result of that.

It is believed that the present boom will last for at least two years. We must see to it that it continues indefinitely. The assurance of regular employment for Britain's matchless shipyard workers is their just due.

NINE POUNDS OF PENICILLIN

WORKING at full pressure during the war the 13 chief chemical plants together produced nine pounds of penicillin a day. That does not sound a great reward for so much effort, but a little penicillin goes a long way. It was enough to treat 250,000 serious cases a day; and a serious case calls for 1,000,000 units, called Oxford units. The production is now going up as more penicillin is wanted for civilians as well as soldiers, and naturally the hospitals, children's hospitals among them, take priority.

It is good to know also that the price has gone down. In America it has gone down from several dollars to half a dollar for an application of 100,000 units.

RAF Sunday School For German Children

BAD EILSEN in Germany has a remarkable Sunday School, for with the exception of a civilian interpreter it is staffed by RAF personnel from the neighbouring HQ of British Air Forces of Occupation.

Started last November by a Czech WAAF, the attendance has grown from 70 to more than 130, but it has not been easy to carry on this good work owing to frequent changes among the teachers as a result of demobilisation. Some of the newcomers have no knowledge of the language, so the difficulty is overcome by concentrating on expressional work such as drawing and singing.

However, a good supply of Bibles printed in German has been sent to the school.



Young Elephants, Young Riders

Children riding Rajah, Meniki, and Rane, the three new baby elephants at the London Zoo.

FEATHERED CHATTERBOXES

By the C N Zoo Correspondent

BEFORE the war the Zoo had a great variety of talking birds, and very amusing they were. Parrots, cockatoos, macaws, ravens, mynas—all helped to entertain the public with their incessant chatter. From 1939 onwards, however, these feathered "chatterboxes" diminished in number. Not unnaturally, perhaps, for the keepers in those grim years had far more urgent tasks to perform than teaching their charges to talk.



A Talkative Macaw

Today these omissions are fast being remedied. There are once again some very talented "talkers" in the Gardens, and several of them are again receiving instruction by the men who look after them.

It is a fascinating business, teaching birds to use scraps of human speech, and although here and there a pupil proves dull and unenterprising (yes, birds vary in their intelligence almost as much as do school-boys!) others are quick to learn.

As a rule—except for parrots, which seem capable of learning at almost any age—talking birds learn most readily when they are young, and cocks are usually far "brighter" than hens.

Having singled out a likely "talker," the usual practice is for the keepers to repeat the same phrase close to the bird every time they pass its cage. A talented specimen soon begins to imitate the sounds, and presently this becomes a habit, so that the bird chatters away without any special stimulus. In fact, a good talking bird may even instruct others if he is quartered near the "pupils." I know several chatterboxes at the Zoo who have

picked up scraps of speech in this way. There is something to be said for it, too, for, unlike the human instructor, the avian one never grows tired!

One very promising talker just now is Cawky, a young tame crow kept at the Children's Zoo. Cawky was brought in the other day by a Putney woman who, some weeks earlier, had picked him up in her garden; and, as he seemed very good at imitating sounds of all kinds, the girl assistants soon decided that, with patience and care, Cawky might be taught to talk. It is too early yet to say how the crow will shape, but his instructors are quite enthusiastic about the prospects. Already Cawky can imitate the miaow of a cat perfectly, and say "Hallo!"

Talking crows are rare. Much more common are talking cockatoos and mynas, some of which, when in the mood, will chatter away, although they never, of course, understand the meaning of the words they utter. I admit they sometimes seem to, but it is a complete illusion. One voluble cockatoo, for example, never fails to ask the approaching visitor, "How's your liver?" I used to know one that, on seeing you, would throw up his crest and exclaim "Now look what is here!"—an observation that at first seemed as apt as it was disconcerting—until one got to know the bird better, when one found that it was practically the only phrase he could utter.

Almost Inaudible

Even those fascinating little budgerigars, so popular as pets, have been taught to talk. The Zoo used to have a pair who often "chatted" to each other. They had such soft little voices that the visitor had to keep very quiet in order to hear them at all!

There is one rather interesting point about all these talking birds. In uttering human speech they never use the tongue, as we do. All their words are formed in the throat. You can easily test that for yourself. Next time you go to the Zoo and hear one of the birds "chatting" to you, have a look at its tongue. It remains practically motionless throughout. C. H.

BEDTIME CORNER

Resourceful Ronnie

RONNIE was feeling miserable as he stood on the river bank with his bathing dress and the beautiful toy liner his Uncle Harry had brought him from America. It was long past the time Uncle Harry was to have met him here for a bathe and a trip in Uncle's



canoe, which was tied up to the boathouse nearby.

Suddenly a lady's voice on the opposite bank called to him: "How far is it to the nearest bridge, please?"

"About two miles," replied Ronnie.

"Oh dear, how far, and I'm so hot," she said. "If only that canoe were here—but you must not try to bring it."

Ronnie had a brilliant idea. He had a good length of string tied to his toy liner, and in the boathouse was a coil of rope. He explained his idea while he wound up the clockwork of his liner. He placed it on the water and away it whirled, drawing the string after it while Ronnie held the other end. The lady clapped her hands in delight as the liner crossed the river to her.

Ronnie tied his end of the string to one end of the rope and attached the rope to the canoe, so that the lady was able to pull the canoe across, and paddle it back to him.

"I envy you bathing!" she said, but he explained mournfully that he could not bathe because Uncle had not come to look after him.

"I'm a good swimmer," she replied. "I'll keep an eye on you while you bathe."

And when Uncle Harry at last arrived he found Ronnie happily splashing about and playing with the liner.

At the Seaside

THOUSANDS of young people are this summer visiting the seaside for the first time. For six years war has kept most of us at a distance from vast stretches of our coast.

Quitting town and countryside we come to a new world by the sea. Let us glance at some of its wonders.

The sea has its hidden mountains and vast valley depths; it has a life as varied as that of the land, yet wholly different. Land-life breathes free air; in the sea, water is the "atmosphere" of nearly all life, whether plant or vegetable. The exceptions are the warm-blooded mammals, such as the seals and whales, and cold-blooded reptiles, such as the turtle, which breathe through lungs.

Birds beyond count, with webbed feet for swimming, and plumage that is waterproof, make their living on and by the sea: swallow-like terns that dart and swirl like blown snowflakes, gulls that fly with immense power and swim with ease the roughest waves, gannets that plunge from on high like aeroplanes: power-diving, gorging gannets that pursue their dinners by swimming underwater, puffins that by some miracle of management catch seven or eight little fish in succession and bring them all

at one time to their young, the fish hanging neatly by their heads from the beak that captured them.

In the sea itself, near shore, are those commonplace marvels, crab, lobster, oyster, mussel, cockle, periwinkle, whelk, and limpet, that know no housing shortage, but, extracting mineral properties from the water, build shells of their own. Crabs and lobsters cast their shells periodically and build new ones. The mussel rivals the silk-worm by spinning strands of silk as an anchorage; the oyster lines its dwelling with mother-of-pearl, the cockle wins strength from its diet enabling it to leap like a frog. Rock pools, dream-lands of delight, are studded with beautiful flower-like animals, the sea anemones which, waving their tentacles in the water, catch their prey and engulf it, like tiny quick-sands.

Twice during each 24 hours the tide is high, and twice it is low, so that we can march far out to explore the marvels of teeming vegetation that the brimming waters have been hiding. Seaweeds may be found actually above high-water mark, but the majority range out from shallows to depths which only a diver can bottom. Immense forests of these weeds, with their abundant animal life, sway luxuriant in the deep sea. One of the surprises of the famous Challenger expedition was the discovery, off Tonga Tabu, of a grass called halophila, which has migrated during the ages from the shore to the depths. The dredge brought up examples, in full flower, from water over 100 feet deep.

Lowlier plants, the thallophytes, have gone still deeper, to live in lasting darkness. They pierce deep-sea corals, feeding on the tissues of their living victims. Land plants require light and air, but these parasites, slowly draining the life of their hosts, flourish at a depth of 6000 feet and more, where no peep of sunlight ever penetrates.

If we but dabble our toes in our summer seas we have yet made contact with a new-old world of whose wonders not the half has yet been revealed.

Our summer seas we have yet made contact with a new-old world of whose wonders not the half has yet been revealed.

OVERHEATED MASTERPIECE

A WEALTHY man acquired not long ago a picture at a cost of many thousands of pounds, a famous painting that was executed four centuries ago.

Painted on a wooden panel, and tautly framed in oak, the picture had endured the challenge of time without flaw. In its new owner's possession it was displayed above radiators in a handsome room. The unusual temperature dried the frame and painting excessively, and caused a serious contraction. Within a few days the panel, with its lovely picture, split right across! The restoration was a feat of art, long and costly in the doing.

CN BOOKSHELF



Village Life in India

John and Jeeva of India, by Muriel R. Wray (Edinburgh House Press, 2s).

THIS little book is the first of a series planned to let our 7 to 9 year-olds know something of the life of boys and girls of similar age in Christian homes overseas. Each of the seven stories in the book tells of one aspect of the worship of the Indian church. A novel feature is the illustrations by Ingall. Some of these are removable, and may then be coloured and mounted to form a composite picture for the schoolroom or nursery wall.

The Creator of Peter Rabbit

The Tale of Beatrix Potter, by Margaret Lane (Warne, 12s 6d).

ONE of the most famous rabbits in history, Peter, began his adventures in September 1893 in a letter written by Beatrix Potter to a little boy. "Dear Noel," she started, "I don't know what to write to you, so I shall tell you a story about four little rabbits whose names were Flopsy, Mopsy, Cottontail, and Peter..." and the letter was illustrated by the delightful sketches of Peter and his family afterwards adored by children all over the world.

Beatrix Potter died in December 1943, and this book tells the story of her life.

As a child Beatrix lived a lonely life with her rich parents in London. Without realising it they neglected her. She spent much of her time alone in her nursery with no other children to play with. She was imaginative, and it must have been during these lonely years of her childhood that she developed those wonderful fantasies about Squirrel Nutkin, Jemima Puddleduck, Mrs Tiggy Winkle, and the other charming animal people which have entranced young and old alike.

Through Young Eyes

Dunster, by Léonie Holmes (C. H. Gee, Leicester, 1s 6d).

THIS is only a little book, but it represents a great achievement. Last year, when the author was only 14, she won the history prize at her Leicester school with a description of an unspoiled English village; and she well deserved it. But her account was of such outstanding merit that it has been given more enduring shape between the slim covers of a book—with happy results.

Dunster is one of the most charming villages in all charming Somerset, and this little book reflects it faithfully. Few people gain the distinction of getting into print at such an early age as Léonie Holmes, and she has reason to be proud of her effort.

The Fun of the Fair

IT is a familiar sight just now to come across a long procession of painted heavy wagons lumbering along over hill and dale in the countryside. Fairs, circuses, Cossack riders, and so forth, are busy again, the travelling showmen reclaiming their old pitches one day at one place, on another day at another.

A Taunton showman, for instance, is always on the move, with his merry-go-round, "dodgem," stalls, and all the fun of the fair—and it is no light task. The various "shows" are in sections, all carefully marked so that they can be reassembled quickly. His helpers all work hard and long, and with a will. During the summer months they are constantly on the road, and with their cavalcade go the caravans which are their homes.

A CN correspondent who saw this fair at Bude, Cornwall, peeped into the chief caravan, and saw a spotless home of shining, burnished metal and wood, and vases of fresh flowers to greet the inquisitive eye. Smartness in appearance, as well as in action, was the keynote of outfit.

Circuses are even more complicated, for there are animals to be cared for, watched, and moved.

When you hear the familiar cry of "Walk up! Walk up!" do

not think of the fair, circus, or whatever it may be, as a catch-penny show. The fun of the fair is provided as the result of considerable enterprise, ingenuity, and hard work. And there is always the weather to dim or brighten the prospects of the men and women of the merry-go-round or the sawdust ring. But they take their chance with a good-humoured smile, and work on, in sunshine and in rain.

CARS TO MEND?

SOME ex-Servicemen have developed an ingenious idea for repairing cars at the owners' homes. These ex-Servicemen have acquired former Army mobile workshops, and with these they can repair a motorist's car at his doorstep.

The mobile workshops carry lathes, welding plant, drilling and grinding machines. Car owners like this kind of service, for they can watch operations, and the work is done without the delay often experienced at short-staffed garages these days.



Crab



Gull



Anemone



Cockle

Family Recipe for Summer Colds

Here is a medicine mothers have been using for years to stop those horrid summer colds getting a chance to develop. It's so popular now that practically every chemist keeps it made up and ready for use.

It's known as the Parment recipe, and one dose of this Parment Syrup will prove how good it is.

It brings almost instant relief to trying coughs and sore throats, clears the head and makes you feel well in no time. It's grand for kiddies, too. They like the Parment Flavour.

Be wise. Get a bottle of Parment Syrup from your chemist to-day and keep it handy. 1/5 the bottle, Family Size 2/10, including tax.

NOTE.—If through shortage of bottles your chemist is out of Parment Syrup, get a 3/12 bottle of Parment Concentrated Essences and make it up yourself.

EX-ARMY BELL TENTS £8 15s.

Complete. Centre pole and accessories. Reconditioned. Sleeps 8. Dimensions 9ft. 6ins. Circumference 44ft.

Also RIDGE TENTS. 8ft. x 7ft., Height 6ft., Walls 2ft., £10 15s.; 6ft. x 4ft., Height 5ft. 6ins., Walls 2ft., £2 15s.

EX-RAILWAY TARPULINS

280 sq. ft., £4 14d sq. ft. £2. Smaller sizes.

MARQUEES—ENQUIRIES INVITED.

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Famous for drawing!

For over a century Gillott's have made the finest quality and the widest range of drawing pens in the world. The favourites of famous artists. At present supplies may be limited, but the excellence persists.

By appointment Pen Makers to the late King George V

Gillott's Pens

JOSEPH GILLOTT & SONS LTD.
VICTORIA WORKS, BIRMINGHAM

"It's time you had a BSA"

"So ask your parents if you may"

B.S.A. Cycles Ltd., Birmingham, 11

HAVE A TOFFEE?

HAVE A Sharp's

SHARP'S SPECIALISE IN MAKING TOFFEE

EDWARD SHARP & SONS LTD.
HAIDSTONE, KENT
"THE TOFFEE SPECIALIST"

THE BRAN TUB

DOOMED

"I saw you at the first night yesterday—what did you think of the play?" one neighbour asked another when they met on the train the next morning.

"I was surprised the audience didn't hiss."

"My dear fellow, it is quite impossible to yawn and hiss at the same time."

Riddles About Clocks

WHY is a clock always shy?
Because it keeps its hands before its face.

WHY is a man about to hit someone like a clock with the hands at 12.59? Because they are both on the point of striking one.

WHY does a clock never strike thirteen? It hasn't the face to do it

WHEN is a clock at the top of the stairs dangerous? When it runs down and strikes one.

LAZYBONES

SAID a lazy young laddie called Wright,
I wish day would turn into night,
Then no school there'd be,
And I'd be quite free
To stay put in my bed till twas light.

Tongue Twister

TO stop chop shops selling chopped shop chops means chop shops drop chopping unchopped shop chops.

Jacko Catches a Queer "Lobster"



1. Jacko perched Baby Jacko on a lobster-pot while he fished.



2. Excited by Jacko's catch, Baby Jacko fell back into the basket-trap.



3. Jacko got a shock and lost his fish. Old Sam Seaweed rescued Baby.

EDUCATED BUNNIES

THE farmer, before taking his French visitor out to snare rabbits, warned him that he must not talk or he would frighten them away.

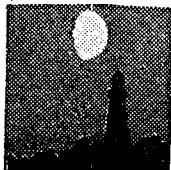
At a vital moment the Frenchman forgot, and cried out excitedly in his native tongue. Immediately every rabbit dashed back to its burrow.

The visitor was amazed.

"I didn't think they would understand French," he exclaimed.

Other Worlds

IN the evening Venus and Jupiter are in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at nine o'clock BST on the evening of Wednesday, August 7.



Catch Question

WHAT is it that people are often asked to do, yet it is quite impossible for anyone to do?

Stop thinking!

FUN WITH CARDS

THIS Simplest of all Card Tricks can be done only if there is a mirror in the room. Stand so that you face the mirror and your audience have their backs to it. Then hold a borrowed pack of cards, which have first been well shuffled by some of the on-lookers, above your head, and one by one name the cards—for you can see them in the mirror.

Do not make your glance too obvious, and keep up a running patter of nonsense.

Maxim to Memorise

A good sweep is better than a bad scrub.

FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

MEXICO is a republic of North America with an area of 758,062 square miles. Its population is 19,473,750, of whom about eleven millions are Indians and the rest of white or mixed race. The language is Spanish, but there are 54 native Indian languages spoken by about three million Indians. Capital, Mexico City; population 1,464,560. The interior of the country consists of an elevated plateau between two mountain ranges

whose steep slopes run down to the Gulf of Mexico on one side and the Pacific on the other.

Mexico has great mineral wealth and produces petroleum, silver, gold, copper, lead, quick-silver, iron, and coal.

The Aztec Indians, a people who had attained a comparatively high standard of civilisation, ruled Mexico from the 13th century until they were conquered by the Spaniards under Hernando Cortes in 1520.

Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, August 7, to Tuesday, August 13.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Tilburg and Wolverhampton — Dutch and English children tell the story of their visit to each other's towns; Buried Treasure. Welsh, 5.0 The Mouse and the Cuckoo in the Clock.

THURSDAY, 5.0 The Little Duck—the story of a pirate ship; Stanhope Road (South Shields) Junior Girls' Choir; Below Ground. Welsh, 5.0 Programme in Welsh. 5.30 The Deliberate Dolphin; Sports Talk. West, 5.0 Judy—the story of a lamb.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Enchanted Castle (Part 5). 5.40 Planning a Railway.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Songs of Scotland; The Road to the Isles—Airways of Scotland. Northern Ireland, 5.0 The Chanticleer and the Little Red Hen; Mr Murphy and Timothy John at the Seaside; Nora O'Rawe (piano).

SUNDAY, 5.0 Selina, the Swiss Cow; The Story of Ruth.

MONDAY, 5.0 Punch, Puss, and Piper (No 3); 5.40 Films Talk. Scottish, 5.0 The Magic Spider; Quartet of Barry Ostlere and Shepherd Band; Newhaven Fishermen's Choir.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Sophie Wyss (songs); Many Moons—a play.

The Children's Newspaper, August 10, 1946

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

THE "Poor Man's Weather-glass." "I hope it keeps fine for our picnic," said Ann.

"So do I," answered her brother Don. "Here's Farmer Gray, let's ask his opinion."

"I must consult the weather-glass," replied the farmer, in response to the children's eager questions. After staring hard at the ground for a few moments, he announced that the weather would remain fine.

"But where is the weather-glass?" asked Ann.

The farmer pointed to a small bright red flower growing near his feet. "If rain is about this flower will close; because of this it is called 'Poor man's weatherglass'; its real name is Scarlet Pimpernel."

TABOO

SAID a lively young fellow called Rand,
With my gifts I'm a real one-man band.
But the neighbours cried, Oh,
With flute, drum, and oboe,
You will find that you are—one man banned!

Meagre Measure

THE small boy who had asked for sixpennyworth of apples eyed the fruit with disgust. "Not many for all that money," he said.

"Less trouble to carry home," replied the greengrocer cheerfully.

The boy put fivepence on the counter and was just going out of the shop when the owner called out that that was not enough.

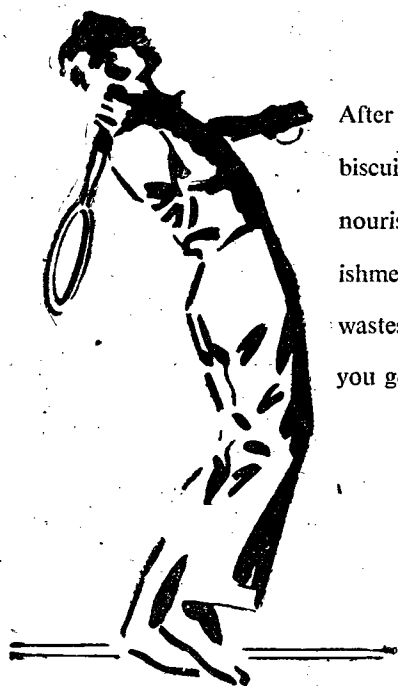
The lad looked back. "Less trouble to count it then," he grinned.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Hidden Fruits
Currant; sultana;
fig; date; apple;
peach; pear;
orange.

Puzzle Limerick
Tame; team; mate;
meat.

DOWN	BATS
OBE	PENT
LLAMA	EVE
LILLY	SWIM
Q	TOWS
BUSH	ASIA
LEA	ONION
O	FAT
WREN	MESS



After exercise, restore energy with biscuits—they are chock full of nourishment. Biscuits provide nourishment without waste—no one wastes biscuits. They keep, and keep you going.

BISCUITS

keep you going

Issued by the Cake and Biscuit Manufacturers War Time Alliance Ltd.

CYS-150

Brian is always lively

His energy and spirits are amazing. Simply bubbling over with life. Keeps you "on the go."

But you would rather have him that way than peevish, cross and poorly! Mother certainly knows best when she gives an ailing child 'California Syrup of Figs.' When bilious, sick or constipated, this natural laxative quickly corrects upsets of the system, and the little one is soon "as right as ninepence."



"California Syrup of Figs"